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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,599	12/13/2001	Thomas R. Neuenschwander	LHC0091-08	5277

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EXAMINER

TAMAI, KARL I

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/022,599

Applicant(s)

NEUENSCHWANDER, THOMAS R.

Examiner

Tamai IE Karl

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12-13-01.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 36-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 36-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 36, 37, and 40-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konda et al.(Konda)(US 5,632,259), Gutmann(US 577,480), and Merlano(US 5,671,526). Konda teaches a laminated stack of rectangular plates with uniform lengths and widths which decrease from central lamina(see figure 7). Konda teaches two central lamina which are at the center of the stack having equal number of lamina extending therefrom. Konda teaches the lamina interlocked by caulking(col. 4, lines 21-34). Konda teaches every aspect of the invention except the groove or ridge perpendicular to the lamina. Gutmann teaches a laminated core C with ridges and projections to mate with other core sections. Gutmann does not teach the guide being perpendicular to the width of the laminae. Merlano teaches the guides 3 being perpendicular to the width of the laminae. Merlano teaches both projections(figure 5) and grooves(figure 1) on the core. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the core of Konda with a ridge or groove, as in Gutmann, to make the core economical to build and operate, and with the guides being perpendicular to the width of the laminae to provide easy assembly of the parts by snap fit as taught by Merlano.

Claims 43 and 44 are rejected as a product by a process claims as merely being process claims to produce the product set forth as above. See MPEP 2113.

3. Claims 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gutmann(US 577,480), Konda et al.(Konda)(US 5,632,259), and Merlano(US 5,671,526), in further view of Allen et al.(Allen)(US 5,777,537). Konda, Gutmann, and Merlano teach every aspect of the invention except, the length of the lamination is along the grain. Allen teaches a laminated core having the grain oriented along the flux path and the laminations are coated to provide insulation (inherently dielectric) from one another to reduce conductivity between the laminations. It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time of the invention to construct the laminated core of Gutmann, Konda, and Merlano with the laminations coated with a dielectric because Allen teaches that insulating the laminations reduced losses from core losses from conductivity between the laminations.

Double Patenting

4. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

5. Claim 36-39 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1, 9, 10, and 11 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/710,659. Claim 36 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 21 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/710,659. Claim 40 and 43 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 32 and 37 of U.S. Patent Application 09/710,313. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the substantially rectangular cross section of the laminations is commonly used in the core art to provide a cylindrical core.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karl I.E. Tamai whose telephone number is (703) 305-7066. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Nestor Ramirez, can be reached at (703)308-1371. The facsimile number for the Group is (703)305-3432. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 308-0956.

Karl I Tamai
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
July 1, 2002

KARL I. TAMAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER